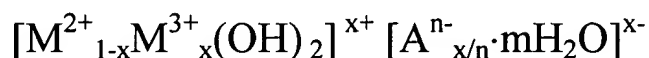


AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.(Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



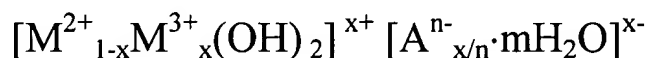
wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  is at least one organic anion comprising a vinylacetate ~~selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,~~

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  with said at least one organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  to produce an intermediate, and

reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

2-14 (Canceled)

15.(Previously Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  is an anion comprising a mixture of at least two members selected from the group consisting of straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_2$ - $C_4$  acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of

aromatic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylate acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  with said anion,  $A^{n-}$  to produce an intermediate, and

reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

16.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

17.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 16, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

18.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

19.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 18, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

20.(Previously Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  comprises  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

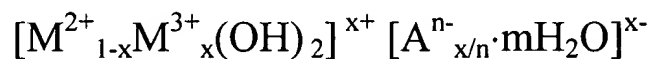
21.(Previously Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  comprises  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ , and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

22-34 (Canceled)

35.(Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend comprising:

a polyolefin; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  is an organic anion source comprising a mixture of at least two selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  with said anion,  $A^{n-}$  to produce an intermediate, and

reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

36-39 (Canceled)

40.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

41.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

42.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

43.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 42, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

44.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polypropylene.

45-46 (Canceled)

47.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polyethylene.

48.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polybutylene.

49.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polymethyl pentane.

50.(Previously Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  contains  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

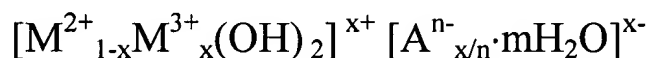
51.( Previously Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  contains  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Cr^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

52-60 (Canceled)

61.(Previously Presented) A synthetic hydrotalcite- polystyrene blend comprising:

a polystyrene; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  an organic anion source selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  with said anion,  $A^{n-}$  to produce an intermediate, and reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

62.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  consists essentially of  $Mg^{2+}$ .

63.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  consists essentially of  $Al^{3+}$ .

64.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61 wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is selected from the group consisting of hexanoates, octanoates, decanoates, stearates, benzoates, chlorobenzoates, naphthoates, p-hydroxybenzoates, acrylates, methacrylates and vinylacetates.

65.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is comprised of a mixture of at least two of the following: straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_2$ - $C_5$  acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid, and unsaturated carboxylates of vinyl acetic acid.

66.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

67.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

68.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

69.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 68, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

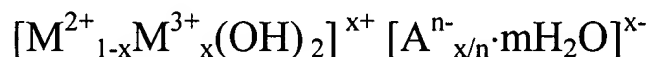
70.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  contains  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

71.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polystyrene blend of claim 61, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  contains  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Cr^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

72.(Previously Presented) A synthetic hydrotalcite-polyvinylchloride blend comprising:

a polyvinylchloride; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  an organic anion source selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  with said anion,  $A^{n-}$  to produce an intermediate, and reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

73.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  consists essentially of  $Mg^{2+}$ .

74.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  consists essentially of  $Al^{3+}$ .

75.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is selected from the group consisting of hexanoates, octanoates, decanoates, stearates, benzoates, chlorobenzoates, naphthoates, p-hydroxybenzoates, acrylates, methacrylates and vinylacetates.

76.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is comprised of a mixture of at least two of the following: straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_2$ - $C_5$  acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of  $C_5$ - $C_{18}$  acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid, and unsaturated carboxylates of vinyl acetic acid.



77.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

78.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

79.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion,  $A^{n-}$  is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

80.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 79, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

81.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  contains  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

82.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-~~polyolefin~~ polyvinylchloride blend of claim 72, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  contains  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of:  $Cr^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$ .